

WELCOME TO GAP ENGLISH 10! 2016-2017

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Tenth-grade English instruction emphasizes student understanding of:

- how literature expresses the values of society and interprets and enriches human experience and culture;
- how an author's choices of form and language create meaning;
- how a reader's active engagement with text reinforces and refines critical reading, writing, and thinking;
- the subtleties of expression affect meaning, and effective readers, writers, and speakers master those subtleties.

As defined in the MCPS common tasks, students will:

Unit 1: Stories of the Individual – Memoir and Coming of Age

- Analyze one or more stylistic techniques an author uses in a text.
- Present material from a text using oral interpretation or storytelling techniques.
- Write a narrative essay or memoir about a meaningful personal experience.
- Use personal experience to support an argument written in response to a quotation or nonfiction passage.

Unit 2: Stories in the Oral Tradition: Drama and Epic Poetry

- Analyze the author's use of language in a text.
- Write a critical review of a live performance or film.
- Write a poem or monologue that explores a character's perspective.
- Interpret and present a scene from a play or an epic.

Unit 3: Stories in the World: Historical and Political Literature

- Evaluate the strengths and limitations of a speaker's argument.
- Research and write an essay exploring the complexities of a controversial issue.
- After researching an issue, take a stance on an aspect of the topic and present a persuasive speech.
- Analyze the author's use of historical context to shape and define a universal theme.

Unit 4: Stories of Other Worlds: Science Fiction, Fantasy and Imaginative Literature

- Analyze the effects of the author's structural choices in a narrative.
- Deliver a multimedia presentation that evaluates the significance of a text.
- Write a science fiction/fantasy narrative that explores an important theme.
- Compare the techniques or purposes of two texts.

Among the texts that we will consider during the year are a variety of short stories, poems, speeches, and essays; George Orwell's *1984*, Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, JD Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*, Homer's *The Odyssey*, William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* and John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. We will also do a unit on diversity with multiple authors of color to choose from.

Policies, Rules, and Procedures

- All policies and rules of Montgomery Blair High School will be enforced.
- Students will report to class on time with planbooks, IDs, and necessary class materials.
- Students will record all class objectives and assignments in their planbooks.
- The teacher will dismiss class when it is over; students should not pack in anticipation of the bell.
- Attendance is taken every day and unexcused absences will incur penalties.
- Students should check for missed assignments with classmates or on Edline before asking the teacher.
- Missed assignments must be completed within same number of classes you were absent.
- Bathroom and grooming needs should be addressed before or after class.
- Water is the only permissible food or drink in the classroom.

Attendance:

- In accordance with the new MCPS Attendance Policy, a student who earns 5 or more unlawful absences may not receive course credit. The student will receive a warning letter (electronically through Edline or by US post) after 3 unlawful absences. All students who earn more than 5 unlawful absences will have to appeal for credit restoration to the administration team.

Classroom Behavior

We will be civil and respectful to one another. Our work will be the product of honest diligence and will promote discussion and learning. All students should feel free to ask questions and contribute positively to class discussions.

Supplies (available in class every day)

A loose-leaf notebook or section for English	Loose-leaf paper <i>without</i> ragged edges
Pens (blue, black, or blue-black)	#2 pencils and an eraser
Multi-colored highlighters, pens, or pencils	Text
Small marble composition book or spiral notebook	A box of Kleenex

Writing Expectations

- Students will demonstrate attention to detail by checking all final products for correct spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and capitalization.
- Students will use MLA format to identify sources. (Instruction will be provided.)
- Students will submit assigned work *on time*.
- Students must avoid plagiarism.

Tests and Quizzes

Tests missed because of excused absences must be made up during lunch or after school, with notice. You must make up tests or quizzes within the same number of classes that you were absent when returning to school or the score will be reported as a zero. Since tests are announced in advance, a student returning to school on a test day is expected to take the test on the assigned day. Bring special circumstances to my attention promptly.

Violation of testing procedures will result in a failing grade.

Grading

- Due dates will be established for all assignments. The deadline, by which a student may submit an assignment for a 10% reduction, is one class period after the due date for block classes, two class periods for classes that meet every day.
- In the case of writing assignments that include a series of preliminary steps, the due date and deadline may be the same day. After the deadline, work will receive no credit.
- Students may redo certain assignments for reconsideration after a timely conference and agreement with the teacher. The second grade will always stand regardless of change.
- Make up work for unexcused absences will be subject to penalty.
- Per MCPS's grading policy, students must complete assignments with basic requirement in order to receive credit. Therefore, students must complete assignments with 33% accuracy in order to meet minimum standards. Those that do will receive a 50%. Those that do not will receive a zero.
- **Except for reading quizzes**, assignments in the formative category are reassessable after a mutually-agreed conference between the student and teacher. Homework and summative assignments are generally not reassessable.

The teacher will use Edline to post class assignments, objectives, and grades. Visit Edline at <http://edline.net>. Grades will be posted by the teacher in a timely fashion that is proportionate to the complexity and type of assignment. Class assignments and objectives will be posted regularly.

Assignments will fall into the following weighted categories:

Homework—	10%
Required Quarterly Assessments—	10%
All Other Assessments--	80%

Extra Help

Extra help is available in Academic Support in room 174 during lunch and after school on Mondays through Thursdays. I am generally available after 2:30 in room 157 or the CAP office, 145, every day.